

Keswick & Intwood Parish Council Annual General Meeting and Subsequent Ordinary Council Meeting on 10th May 2006 held at the Reading Rooms, Keswick.

Present: Alan Gelder (Chairman) AG; John Payne (Vice Chairman) JP; Joe Loades (Treasurer) JL; John Morrison (Councillor) JM; Cathy Cursons (Councillor) CC; Julian Darling (Councillor) JD; Phillip Brooks (Clerk) PB.

Members of the public in attendance: General Sir Richard Dannatt KCB CBE MC; Mrs. Margit Beavon; Mr. Peter Riches.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Lars Tibell.

Annual General Meeting

1. In accordance with the Standing Orders, AG and JP stood down as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. The Clerk then invited nominations for the post of Chairman for the coming year. AG was proposed by JD and seconded by JP. AG declared that he would accept the Office.
2. AG invited nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman for the coming year. JP was proposed by AG and seconded by JD.
3. No sub-committees were appointed
4. The following individual responsibilities were allocated to Councillors: police liaison CC; transport and emergency communications JP; highways AG; treasurer JL; and parish planning issues JM.
5. There were no annual payments to be approved.
6. The Code of "Conduct Book" was updated.

Ordinary Council Meeting

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March were proposed for confirmation by JD, seconded by JP and duly signed.
2. There was no declaration of interest in items on the Agenda.
3. JL presented the accounts for the year to 31st March 2006. He drew attention to South Norfolk Council (SNC) review of Adopter Group Payments that was taking place and

likely to impact on future payments made to the Parish Council for recycling. The meeting deferred further discussion until SNC's proposals were known. The accounts were approved.

4. A motion was approved to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public an opportunity to inform the meeting. For the first time for a very long time we welcomed three members of the public.

4.1 Mrs. Margit Beavon, a passionate energy conservationist who has recently written to the leader of South Norfolk Council regarding the new homes to be built at Cringleford (AG has copies of the correspondence and will be following the outcome) and wife of John who retired to Keswick some 8 years ago, opened for the public. She drew Councillors attention to the volume and speed of traffic using Low Road in the direction of Tesco's. AG said this had been recognized by the Council and taken up with the SNC Highways Engineer who, when he visited the Parish, had been surprised by the amount of traffic using the road. Options for improvement included possible traffic calming measures before the double white line sections of the road; and reducing the 40mph speed limit section to 30mph. Whilst the latter was still a possibility it was unlikely because the population density fell below the level required to enforce a 30mph limit. JD asked what the break point was. **(Action AG)**. It was agreed by all that the ad-hoc parking situation along Low Road had improved since posts had been placed on the verge, but there remained a problem opposite numbers 31-33 where builders involved in the extensive alterations were parking their vehicles. CC said she knew the owner and would mention some possible alternatives to them. **(Action CC)**.

4.2 General Sir Richard Dannatt then spoke - he lives at the Mill House, Mill Lane, Keswick and is the Son-in-Law of the late Jim Gurney, Keswick's major land owner, most of which is farmed (arable). His military duties keep him away for long periods but he does oversee the running of the estate and was accompanied by Peter Riches who assists with the running of the farm. AG has spoken to Sir Richard in the past regarding the possibility of a footpath being laid in the field which runs down from Keswick New Hall to the footpath on Low Road, which then links up with the bus stop on the B1113 (Mulbarton Road) thereby allowing residents at the Hall to walk in safety – unfortunately it transpires that the Church Commissioners own this land and not the Gurneys. Other matters that have been discussed - upgrading of Keswick Reading Room, a car park off Beech Walk to accommodate walkers and a third lane road widening at the junction of the B1113 and the A140. In his presentation Sir Richard said that he was sympathetic to all of the aforementioned and to the point of providing financial assistance but would only be in a position to do so, when and if some of the Gurney land had been developed, as the farming enterprise was not sufficiently profitable in itself. He envisages a total refurbishment of the Reading Room both inside and out, perhaps even to the extent of enlarging the car parking area by going into the adjoining paddock which is owned by the Gurneys. **JD** welcomed the suggestion for the Reading Room development but wondered if this should be borne by the Parish Council. **AG** advised the meeting that the Trustees of the Reading Room were in course of applying for a Lottery grant and that the Parish Council would be required to sign a related letter. He also advised that he had

introduced the Trustees to a private charity which will not be approached until the outcome of the Lottery application is known. Sir Richard then referred to the possible development of land owned by the Gurneys between Beech Walk and Low Farm, around 10 dwellings – the land already features on the map attaching to the Local Development Framework submission. The Chairman raised the question of the aforementioned car park and Sir Richard did not demure. Sir Richard also explained that the Livestock Market was expected to relocate to a preferred site between the B1113 and A140 traffic light junction and the Ipswich Road Park and Ride location; and that there was also a possible opportunity to develop a reasonable quality hotel adjacent to where the livestock market might be. He also indicated a willingness to consider the provision of land if and when Norfolk County Council made an approach regarding a third lane or road widening at the junction of the B1113 and A140.

4.3 Mr. Peter Riches addressed the matter of fly-tipping within the Parish. He recalled that before her departure, County Councillor Alison King had considered action to move the Park and Ride barrier to a position nearer to the entrance from the B1113 in the hope of discouraging the practice. The meeting agreed to resurrect this proposal starting by following up the e-mails previously exchanged. **(Action PB)**. Referring to the previous discussion about Reading Room improvements, he said it was vital that the drainage arrangements were part of any package of improvements. In answer to questions, Mr. Riches said he was not aware of any building developments in relation to Woodchip stud that had recently been sold; nor was he aware of any planning activity in relation to Railway Farm.

Members of the public then left the meeting and the agenda was resumed.

5. JM presented his first draft of progress with the Parish Plan which consisted essentially of a questionnaire to gather information. Rather than discuss the evidently comprehensive document at the meeting, JM was asked to e-mail it to all Councillors (with paper copies for JL and CC) thus giving everyone more time for thoughtful consideration of his work. Councillors were also asked to let JM have their individual responses. **(Action everyone)**.

6. CC suggested that a planning enforcement officer should be asked to visit Railway Farm to assess whether there were any planning infringements there.

7. JP presented his draft questionnaire to gather information about possible demand and use of a bus service to and from Keswick Hall. Some amendments to the document were agreed and PP was asked to arrange its printing and distribution. **(Action JP and PB)**. After a general discussion about bus services and the convoluted options possible, JP was also asked to find out the cost of “Car Link” and “Door to Door” journeys to and from the Hall **(Action JP)**.

8. AG said that the litter pick of Keswick had taken place and reported in *The Newsletter*. He hoped that as requested, Parishioners would keep their eyes open for any fly-tipping activities and report them to SNC.

9. The meeting agreed that the Parish Council should commit to achieving Quality Council status commencing with the Clerk working for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). The costs of the Clerk doing this were expected to be about £200 for the CiLCA qualification (which, hopefully, would be covered by a Bursary) plus about £64 to enroll with the Society of Local Council Clerks. **(Action PB)**.

10. JL referred to a letter received from SNC about the Review of Adopter Group Payments (for recycling). The meeting agreed there was nothing more to be added to the discussion that had taken place in connection with approving the Parish accounts - paragraph 3 above.

11. A planning application for a proposed new conservatory at 23 Low Road, Keswick was considered and approved.

Correspondence received:

- Getting to Grips with Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act 2005; and Local Authority Byelaws discussion paper. The Council agreed that it was good to know these powers (fixed penalties and byelaws) were available should they be required at some future date;
- CC took the Norfolk Constabulary paper "Survive and Strengthen" for information;
- JD took the Draft Statement of Community Involvement relating to the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework for review and return to the Clerk.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for 19.00 hrs on Wednesday 26th July at the Reading Rooms.

Phillip Brooks
Parish Clerk
18th May 2006